

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 1,

AURELIA, IOWA, SEPTEMBER, 1895.

No. 7.

POINTERS

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Health and Comfort-Giving Feels-well Waist

Over any Similar Garment.



While it is suspended from the shoulders the weight is distributed on the most common sense and scientific principles obviating that dead weight and constant pull by reason of the straps at the back through which the body oscillates. A little abdominal supporter in the center of the waist band in front, with adjusting straps on each side enables the waist band to be made larger or smaller without changing the position of the buttons on the waist band. For little folks with full large stomachs the garments can be buttoned lower in front, allowing them to hang even at the bottom. It is a perfect Shoulder Brace. The adjustments are all in front. A child can put on or remove the Feels-well in a moments time. The waist band is a gored belt; form fitting; impossible to cut the flesh or bind the wearer in any way. The waist band can be raised or lowered to suit the waist line by adjusting buckles on the shoulder straps. The Feels-well will assure the wearer perfect freedom and comfort, will greatly add to the grace and beauty of the form and carriage. We use the sliding bar buckles. No pronged buckles used to tear the garment or injure the wearer. Made of the best Lisle Webbing.

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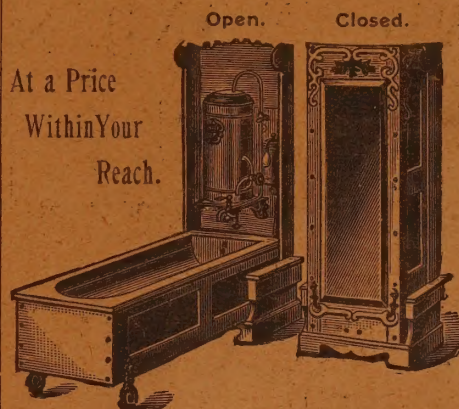
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Are from the

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Western Poultry Journal.

A 24 to 36 page monthly magazine published at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, elegantly printed, carefully edited, and always interesting; 50 cents per year.

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We send both papers one year for only 50 cents. Try "A Great Pair."

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Eggs \$1.50 per 13—satisfaction guaranteed. Express paid on two sittings in one order.

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YOUR PATRON'S INTERESTS.

Breeding stock can often be safely shipped by freight when the buyer lives on the same line of road as the seller, and the distance between them does not much exceed a hundred miles. There is a vast difference between freight and express charges on shipments of this kind, and the breeder who is considerate enough of his patron's interest to save him this difference is not likely to be forgotten when future purchases are to be made. Neither will he be forgotten if his manner of shipping has been such as a careful and considerate breeder of fancy poultry should avoid.

The poultryman who always keeps an eye out for his patron's interest, will, other things being right, never lack for patrons. The seller's obligation to his patron does not end with furnishing him with precisely the kind of stock or eggs which he pays for. It is his duty to do all in his power to have his purchase delivered to him in the very best condition, and at the least possible expense.

The time of year is now at hand when poultrymen are looking over their flocks with a view to ascertaining what additional stock they require in order to properly fill their houses for the winter. A large proportion of them will find that they lack a few pullets, or at least a cockerel or two. Provident poultry-keepers make their arrangements to purchase what they require in this line in the fall. And they are the kind of people who appreciate anything which the seller may do with a view to saving them unnecessary expense.

Those who ship live poultry for breeding purposes should exercise the greatest care in the construction of the coops. They should study how to relieve them of every ounce of superfluous weight. Coops for this purpose can be made very light and yet possess all the strength required of them. For one or even a

pair of birds a dry half-inch board for the bottom, four one-inch strips for standards, and some pieces of lath for cross braces, is all the wood that it is necessary to use about them. A frame thus constructed will possess lightness, and when covered with stout muslin, can be safely trusted to carry a pair of fowls any distance. A coop of this style is now what is generally used by breeders who are up with the times in their business. It is the saving of no little expense to their patrons in the way of express charges. The buyers of birds expect them to be shipped in coops of this pattern, and the breeder who makes use of a soap box, or, in fact, any kind of a box, puts needless expense upon his customer, besides advertising himself as being away behind the times in his business.

NO GRAET DIFFERENCE.

When western poultry raisers read of the prices which their brethren of the east obtain for eggs and poultry, they are very apt to conclude that their lines have been cast in anything but pleasant places as compared with those who raise poultry in the northeastern section of the United States. As a matter of fact, the difference in the situation of the two parties, so far as the opportunities for reaping a profit from the business is concerned, is not nearly so great as it appears. Perhaps, everything considered, the easterner has a slight advantage over his western competitor, but this advantage is too small to justify any feeling of discouragement on the part of the latter. In the east it costs fully double to supply a flock with its grain ration that it does in the west, and it takes more than double the money to buy the land over which they have their range. Suitable buildings can be as cheaply constructed in the west as in the east, and there is not one other item of expense which bears more heavily upon the westerner excepting

the one of transportation. This is burdensome enough, it must be admitted, but it does not make up for the difference in the cost of the grains of the two sections. And this expense as a factor in the matter is becoming of less consequence to the shipper every year. The towns and cities of the west are growing with a more rapid pace than those of the east, and the home market is every year absorbing a larger proportion of the product. The western poultry raiser has no reason to look with envy upon those who are engaged in a like business in the east. The two stand more nearly on an equal footing than at first sight they appear to be.

The surest way of getting rid of the mites which collect on the under sides of the perches during the day, and swarm over the bodies of the fowls at night, is to burn them. A very careful person can do this with but little danger to the buildings. Make a torch by wrapping an old stocking around the end of a broom handle and soaking in kerosene. Remove all straw and other combustible material from the coop, and have a pail of water at hand for use in case of accidents. Pass the flame along on the underside of the perch and not a mite will be left alive. A better plan is to have the perches movable so they can be taken outside of the building and passed through the flame, but we judge that only a small proportion of poultry breeders have them constructed in this way. Such persons must decide the question as to whether they can trust themselves to use the torch on the inside, for we don't propose to be responsible if they burn down the building.

The MESSENGER and the Poultry Herald will be furnished for one year for 50 cents. The Herald is published at St. Paul, and is one the best poultry papers in the country. Its subscription price is 50 cents.

IN WINTER QUARTERS.

Have the chickens all in their winter quarters by the last of this month. We do not mean by this that they should be closely housed or yarded, but that every chicken should be roosting in the house which it is to occupy during the winter. In the north we are liable to have bad storms any time after the first of October. While as a usual thing it is mild and pleasant until in December, severe snow storms have been known to occur in October. Do not let the young stock which is scattered about all over the place get caught in anything of this kind. Such an exposure would be the ruin of them as layers for the balance of the winter. We believe in allowing the young stock to hover in the nursery coops during the summer. This prevents crowding and reduces the liability of disease to the minimum, but it won't do to take any chances on them getting caught in such quarters by the storms of winter.

It will require considerable trouble to change the young stock from their summer to their winter quarters, and it is a task which will afford the owner an excellent opportunity to cultivate the virtue of patience. The chickens will manifest the most determined opposition to the change. It will be necessary to catch each brood after night and carry them to the poultry house. We do this for about three nights in succession, and after that remove the nursery coops and stack them away where the chickens cannot get to them. After this is done the broods will be found hovering on the spot which was occupied by the coops, but they can then be driven into the poultry house if one waits until just before dark, and is very quiet with them and does not get them excited. When this is done once the trouble is about over, as they will usually go into the house without any urging after that. For a while they will congregate on the spot where the coop had been every evening, but as night approaches they will take up their march for the poultry house. There will be a perverse specimen now and then that will fail to follow its companions into the poultry house but will select a new roosting place either in some spot by itself or with some other colony. As the time draws near for freezing weather it stands the poultryman in hand to make a careful search

of the premises for birds which have gone off to themselves in this way. Sometimes they are so well concealed that no amount of searching will discover them, but if the owner will be out at the first "peep o' day" he will see them coming from their hiding places, and can lay his plans for securing them the following evening. Altogether it is the work of several weeks to get the habit established among the fowls of regularly going into the new quarters selected for them, and if the owner wants this job off his hands he must make his arrangements to give his closest attention to it and trust nothing to chance.

There is another very important reason for getting the hens intended for winter layers in winter quarters early in the fall. A change of this kind will often cause a hen to quit laying until she has become thoroughly accustomed to her new associations and surroundings. If this should occur about the beginning of winter she may not begin laying again until towards spring. Late changes of this kind are always risky if one is looking forward to winter eggs. We could relate more than one instance where a fine lot of pullets which gave every promise of returning a handsome profit to the owner in the way of winter eggs, had proven a loss and a burden to him for no other reason in the world than the change from summer to winter quarters was made from six weeks to two months later than it should have been done. The pullets were all laying before the change was made, but quit immediately after their removal, and for the balance of the winter they appeared to have no object in life but to eat. We do not want to be understood as saying that such a result will follow this method of handling the flock with unvarying regularity, but it happens often enough to make experienced poultry keepers extremely careful about taking any unnecessary risks of that kind.

TO PREVENT LOSS OF EGGS.

A large proportion of the eggs which are laid on the farms is a dead loss for the reason that they are deposited in such out of the way places that they are either never found at all, or not until their age has rendered them unfit for use. When the hens are running at large many of them will not return to the poultry house to lay, but will make

their nest in secluded spots about the barn or other outbuildings. This can be prevented to a large extent by arranging nests outside of the poultry houses. We have found it a good plan to place kegs and barrels at various points about the premises where they will not be disturbed by the cattle or hogs, and disposing them so that the hens when they come upon them in their wanderings will be impressed with the idea that they will constitute a very cosy place for a nest. The most of the eggs laid on the place will be found in these barrels, and the losses occasioned by the hiding away of the nests will be reduced to the minimum. The nesting material in these boxes and barrels must be frequently changed and the same precautions taken to prevent them from becoming a harbor for lice which would be deemed necessary if they were located in the poultry house.

When one comes upon a nestful of eggs by accident he can never be sure of their freshness. He don't know whether they have been laid by one or a dozen hens. If they are all the eggs of one hen it is certain that more than half of them are stale, if not in the first stages of decay. A conscientious person will not send a lot of eggs found in this way to market, and yet we have abundant evidence of the fact that many eggs of this kind are sent to market when the seller must know that there is a serious doubt as to their freshness. By arranging nesting places such as we have suggested, and making the rounds of these every day for the purpose of removing the eggs, the owner will know that he is not offering for sale that which is not fit for the table of his customer.

The season is about past for deriving any benefit from the above advice this year, but it will be worth the while of those who have not some better way of assuring themselves of the freshness of the eggs which they gather, to keep it in mind for next summer.

If you have not received a copy of the Standard of Perfection, now is a good time to get it. It will aid you in picking out your best specimens to exhibit this fall.

Always select the variety that suits your taste best, and be sure that you have good vigorous stock.

MUST HAVE ANIMAL FOOD.

It is next to impossible to obtain winter eggs in this northern country in paying quantities unless the hens are liberally supplied with animal food. An exclusive grain ration, however varied, will not produce the eggs, and though the results will be somewhat better if it is supplemented with green vegetable food, the number of eggs will still fall far short of what might be obtained by the addition of animal matter.

A small flock of hens from which nothing more is expected than eggs enough to supply one family can usually find all the animal food which they require in the waste from the kitchen, but where chickens are kept in larger numbers with a view to deriving something from them in a commercial way, the animal food must come from a larger and more reliable source of supply. The prepared animal meals which are on the market admirably answer the purpose for which they are recommended. The material from which these meals are made is in most cases obtained from the large packing houses, and there is little doubt as to its purity. The manufacturers invite the closest investigation along this line, and extend a cordial welcome to all who desire to make an inspection of their works. It has been alleged from time to time that certain obscure makers of these meals incorporate with their product a kind of material which no one would want to feed to his fowls, but there are plenty of manufacturers of the better class who have been before the public long enough to establish a reputation for honesty and integrity, and no one need hesitate to make use of what they offer for sale.

Green cut bone if it can be obtained in sufficient quantity is all the animal food which the fowls will require. The bone can be obtained at the village meat markets at a trifling expense, but it requires a bone cutter to reduce it to the proper mechanical condition for the fowls, and most of those who keep poultry do not feel able to buy one of these machines. But they will prove a good investment to anyone who keeps fifty or more fowls. One of them will easily pay for itself the first winter.

Feed animal food in some shape. Do not try to get along without it if you expect your hens to prove good winter layers. Other things being right, it will insure you plenty of eggs.

SUMMER VENTILATION.

If when the poultry house was built some provision was not made for summer ventilation other than the door and the window on the south side, the owner will quickly discover the mistake which he made when he goes into the house these hot summer nights. Even when the door and window are left wide open, it is still a most uncomfortable place for the fowls.

In building a poultry house some means of escape should always be made for the layer of hot air overhead. This is best done by openings in the two ends of the building as near the ridge pole as it is possible to have them. These may safely be left open as long as the hot weather continues, but should be closed up tight on the arrival of winter. The writer does not believe in ventilation in cold weather, except during the warmest part of the day, but he regards ventilation as a matter of supreme importance during the summer. He believes that much of the sickness among fowls in summer can be charged to the lack of it. In fitting up our plastered houses we soon realized the mistake we had made in leaving no opening in the ends for permitting a circulation of air directly under the roof. These houses are exceedingly close and hot in warm weather, and can hardly be kept free from foul odors no matter how much labor is expended in the effort to keep them clean.

If the reader is making preparations to build a new poultry house, our advice to him is not to neglect to make some arrangement for its thorough ventilation in summer. He can admit to it through the door and window all the fresh air which is needed in winter but not in summer.

FOR THE HIGH-FLYERS.

The best thing which we have ever made use of for preventing the chickens from flying over the tops of the picket fences is a strip of 12-inch wire netting tightly stretched above the pickets. Leave a space of four inches between the lower edge of the wire and the tops of the pickets. A chicken never attempts to fly over a fence without touching the top of it with her feet unless she is greatly excited. Where the netting is arranged in the manner above described, the fowl will strike squarely about the center, and not once in a hundred times will it attempt to climb

up it and go over the top. It does not seem to occur to the chicken that there is any top to it, and after struggling for awhile to obtain a foothold, it will drop back into the yard. It will be found that this netting is much safer than a couple of wires stretched above the pickets, and netting of this width is very cheap. One of our advertisers, Boquet & Heath, of St. Paul, furnishes it at seventy-five cents per roll of a hundred and fifty feet.

POUNDED GLASS.

In answer to a question which is frequently put to us, in regard to pounded glass for poultry, we shall say that we have never known any ill effects to result from the use of the glass. When we run short of other grit we do not hesitate to give our fowls the glass, and we keep on hand a heavy iron pestle and a clumsy home-made hopper for reducing the old glass bottles and broken crockery ware about the place to the proper fineness for the use of the chickens.

We have often seen it stated that the glass would cause serious injury to the fowls if it were given to them regularly for any great length of time, but we had been making use of it long before we had seen these statements in print, and had become pretty well convinced that we could afford to take the risks. When other readers say that they have injured their flocks by feeding them pounded glass, we have no right to doubt their word; but as far as our own experience goes we should say that it is as safe to place the glass before the fowls as any other kind of sharp grit.

IT TOOK COURAGE.

One of the most striking manifestations of nerve in connection with the introduction of a new breed of chickens was that exhibited by C. A. Sharp & Co., when they took hold of the Cornish Indian Games some six or seven years ago. These men had the sagacity to see that this breed would become very popular if properly improved, and they earnestly devoted themselves to the development of its good qualities. This proved to be an expensive undertaking, a number of trips to Europe being required to obtain specimens of the desired kind. The firm expended over \$20,000 on the breed before they realized a single dollar out of them. It takes nerve to do a thing like that and C. A. Sharp & Co. richly deserve all that they have made out of the venture.

SOAK 'EM IN TOBACCO.

If there is any good reason for believing that the hens are infested with lice it will be time well spent to give them a dipping in some lice destroying fluid before the warm days are over. There are various compounds kept for sale by those who deal in poultry supplies which are recommended for this purpose, and as far as we know they will all do what is claimed for them. We have had no experience in the use of any of them and, therefore, have no practical knowledge concerning any of them which would warrant us in saying a word in favor of one more than another. We know, however, that a decoction of tobacco will do the work, and do it as thoroughly as there is any need of it being done.

A pound of cheap tobacco will be sufficient for the treatment of fifty hens. Break it to pieces and pour a gallon of boiling water over it. Let it stand for an hour or two and then add several gallons more of warm water and it is ready for use. The reader must exercise his own judgment with respect to the quantity of water required, as some of the cheap tobaccos will call for more than others. There should be no difficulty in deciding when the liquid is of the proper strength to kill the lice. It is best to keep on the safe side, however, and have it a little too weak rather than too strong. While we have never known old fowls to be injured by it, it seems probable that they would be if it were very concentrated. And then it is not necessary to have it that way. A weaker solution imparting a light chocolate color to the water will be all that is required to kill the lice.

A common sized stable bucket is as good as anything which can be used for dipping the hens in. Put enough of the liquid into the pail to completely immerse the hen when she is thrust into it feet foremost. Her head, of course, must not be submerged, but while she is being held down in the pail for the space of a minute or two, some of the liquid may be taken up in the hand and rubbed in the feathers of the head and neck. When the hen is raised from the pail squeeze out as far as possible the excess of the liquid from her feathers, and turn her where she can stand on clean straw but cannot roll in the dirt until she has dried off. It is something of a job to take a lot of fifty

or a hundred hens through this process, but in every case the owner is well paid for the time and trouble.

CHANGING BREEDS.

Different breeds of fowls require different treatment in order to be at their best. This is a fact which is well understood by all who have had experience in the care of poultry. The man who has gotten on to the "knack" of handling Brahmas successfully has a great deal to learn before he can make a lot of Leghorns respond to his care in a manner which will be satisfactory to him.

Breeders should not make a change of breeds from trifling reasons. If their success with one breed has been fairly good they are throwing away a great deal of valuable experience by casting it aside for another which they have been induced to believe will give better results. They should at least retain their hold on the old breed until it has been demonstrated that under their system of management the new one will return a larger profit. So far as profit is concerned there is not the difference between breeds that is popularly supposed. The profit which one breeder makes off his fowls more than another does not represent the difference between the breeds so much as the difference in the manner of caring for them.

CLOVER HAY FOR CHICKENS.

Now is the time to cure a lot of second growth clover for the layers this winter. Do not expose the clover to the sun longer than is necessary as this makes it hard and dry and greatly impairs its value for this purpose. It will be all the better if it is cured in the shade. Those who have never fed finely cut clover to chickens in winter have no conception of its value as an egg producer. There is nothing else which quite takes its place, and at the same time it is about the cheapest of all foods. The expense of keeping a lot of hens in the ordinary way can be reduced one-third by means of the clover, and at the same time the fowls will be better kept than they would be without it.

DON'T TORTURE.

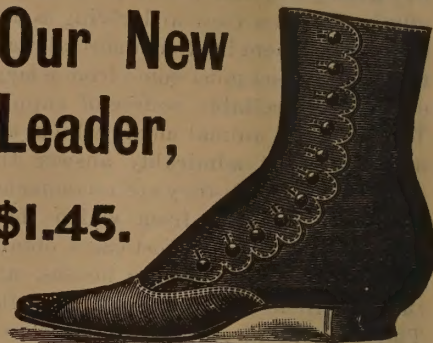
Do not be above doctoring your fowls when one of them is ailing, and you think you can make a pretty correct guess as to what is the matter with her.

Use simple remedies, and as a rule avoid resorting to heroic measures. Such measures are never justified except in the case of a very sick hen, and a hen that becomes very sick is seldom of any account afterward. The better plan would be to kill her in a painless way instead of making her the victim of heroic treatment, which in most instances is simply subjecting her to a cruel and agonizing death.

Fat hens do not lay well and their eggs do not hatch well. This is worth remembering.

Give the chicks a chance to go into the barn occasionally and pick up the grass seeds which would be wasted.

**Our New
Leader,
\$1.45.**



Last year's demand for our Leader was so large that we were unable to manufacture them as fast as they were ordered. This year we have one mammoth factory that manufactures nothing but this line, and we are making this boot in such immense quantities that we are able to produce a much better boot.

We have many new improvements in this line: first, it is made of heavy genuine Dongola, solid leather sole and inner sole; second, it has a leather sock lining, which no other but a high-priced boot has; third, it has a back-stay; fourth, as much care is taken in selecting this stock and in making, as in our higher-priced goods; fifth, we not only warrant but we guarantee every line to be just as represented. The above cut is an exact copy of the boot itself.

Our New Leader Ladies' Dongola Button; styles, Plain Opera Toe, Plain Common-Sense Toe, Opera Toe Patent Tip; widths, D, E, and EE; sizes, 2½ to 8.

Our New Leader Ladies' Dongola Front Lace, Opera Toe Patent Tip; widths, D, E, and EE; sizes, 2½ to 8.

Our New Leader Ladies' Dongola Button, Spring Heel, Common-Sense Last; Patent Tip; widths, D, E, and EE; sizes, 2½ to 6.

Any of the above-described shoes sent on receipt of \$1.45, all postage paid by us. Send for complete illustrated catalogue of all grades of boots and shoes — free. Please mention this paper.

**POSTAL SHOE CO.,
Box 2657.
Boston, Mass.**

FEED CORN.

So much has been said against corn as a food for poultry that a large number of people have come to believe that the nearer they can come to dispensing with it entirely the better it will be for their flocks. We believe that the danger attending the use of corn for this purpose has been greatly exaggerated. The writer is willing to take upon himself the responsibility of advising poultry-keepers to feed corn. Feed it both in summer and winter, but do not feed corn and nothing else.

Chickens will seldom eat more corn than is good for them if they can have access to other kinds of food. The farmer's flock may have the freedom of the corn crib all through the hot summer months, and yet lay well and keep in the best of health provided they have the liberty to roam over the place and find other food which will go to make up the necessary variety. The bad effects of corn are most likely to follow the regular visits of the fowls to the cribs in winter when they obtain an unlimited amount of that grain and scarcely anything besides. The results would be quite as bad if they were restricted to a diet of wheat, oats or any of the other grains.

We are frequently advised to feed no corn in summer, as it is too heating, tends to the production of fat, etc. It has always been our habit to feed corn all summer to the hens which are confined in yards as well as those which were on the range, and we have never had any serious losses by disease. We know, too, that our hens lay fully as well as those of any of our acquaintances who regard it as little short of a crime to feed corn to chickens in summer. But we do not feed corn and nothing else. And another thing which we are careful about is to see that the fowls which are in confinement always have plenty of grit. Those that are at large can be depended upon to find what they need in this line, but it must be supplied to those that are kept in in the yards.

Poultrymen are getting over the prejudice which has so long existed against corn. The warning to feed corn in the most sparing manner is not sounded so often or so loudly as it used to be. Lots of people who have always fed corn freely in spite of the warning to the contrary, are summon-

ing up courage enough to call the opposition which has been worked up against this grain by its right name. To say a word in favor of the free use of corn is not so much of a heresy as it was a few years ago. Poultrymen are advised to feed corn, and feed plenty of it, but not to feed corn alone.

TOO MUCH FOR THE CAT.

The cat will not steal any chicks from the brood which is watched over by a Pit Game hen. The most confirmed chicken-eating cat will not undertake such a job as that more than once. The Pit Game hen is a fighter, and the largest and fiercest cat does not need to have more than one "scrap" with her to be convinced of that fact.

NO DIFFERENCE TO SPEAK OF.

Any of the standard breeds of chickens commonly kept by poultrymen will give a good profit in return for right treatment, and the difference between the breeds as regards laying qualities is by no means as great as is generally supposed. It is contended by some poultrymen that there is not a difference of two dozen eggs a year between the best and the poorest layers.

GET WHAT THEY ARE WORTH.

If you now have a fine lot of market poultry the rearing of which has cost you no small amount of time, worry and expense, it is not necessary for you to give it away to some thieving commission merchant. There are reliable commission merchants in every city who deal honestly with their patrons. There are also commission men in every city who are in the business purely for the purpose of robbery. Don't play into the hands of the latter. It isn't at all necessary. Devote a little time and a few postage stamps to finding out who you'll be safe in shipping your market poultry to. Do something towards weeding out these dead beat commission merchants.

FIRE THE EGG-EATERS.

If the ugly habit of egg-eating existed in any one of our coops last winter, we would not allow a single inmate of that coop on the premises the coming winter. There may have been no egg-eating during the spring and summer, and the owner may think the flock is broken of the vice, but the chances are that he will be mistaken if he undertakes to carry them through another

winter when they will be surrounded by the same conditions under which the habit was developed in the first place. This egg-eating habit is too serious a thing to dally with. It completely neutralizes all the expense and labor which the poultryman has been to for a year. So far as the loss is concerned it is almost as bad as the cholera. And then it makes him so mad that he cannot enjoy his meals or sleep well of nights. It may be that some of the hens in the coop did not eat any eggs, but you have no means of knowing which they are. The only safe course is to hustle off the whole outfit, the innocent with the guilty.

Don't trust to good luck in the poultry business; good care and attention are better.

CENTRAL NURSERIES

Complete in all departments. Fruit trees of all kinds and small fruits. Evergreens cheap by the 100 for wind-breaks. Ornamental trees, roses, bulbs, shrubs, etc. SPECIALTIES: Wragg Cherries, Evergreens and Grape Vines, 1 and 2 years old. first class vines, cheap in large quantities. Send for price list.

J. WRAGG & SONS,

WAUKEE, IOWA.

"Bean's Buffs"

We make a specialty of breeding all BUFF FOWLS in their purity.

150 CHICKS 150
Bred From Winners

At the Minnesota State Fair September, 1894, and Minneapolis January 1895, for sale after October 1st.

100 Breeders for Sale Now

scoring from 90 to 93. Prices reasonable. Quality to govern. Also dealer in a full line of

Poultry Supplies

And Specialties of all kinds at Rock Bottom Prices. Terms cash. Circular and price list free if you mention the MESSENGER.

Anoka Buff Poultry Yards.

Lock Box 72,

ANOKA, MINN.

SOFT FOOD.

One may easily make a serious mistake in feeding soft food to fowls. The danger lies in giving them too large a proportion of their ration in this form. No matter how plentiful the material for it on hand, or the scarcity of other kinds of food, we would not give soft food more than once a day, and then not more than half what the fowls would eat. We would make this the first feed of the day, and the sooner it can be given after daylight the better. Let what they have during the balance of the day be whole grain.

A chicken has a grinding apparatus and nature intended that it should be put to use. In a natural state it would need to be exercised on nearly all the food which passed down the fowl's throat. However much a fowl may appear to relish a lot of steaming soft food of a cold winter morning, it is a fact well known to all successful poultry keepers that one must be exceedingly careful in the amount of such food which is supplied to the flock. We can well remember when we thought we were treating our hens with great kindness by supplying them with a hot mash in liberal quantity twice a day, and when they failed to show their appreciation of the supposed kindness in refusing to lay any eggs, we concluded that it was because they did not have enough of warm soft food, and proceeded to double the allowance. And we don't suppose we are the only individual who has made that kind of a mistake.

As a food for his fowls whole grain must constitute the main dependence of the poultry keeper. In summer or in winter scatter it so that they must hunt for it and pick it up grain by grain. It should never be dropped in a pile where they can stand and gulp it down in a minute or two.

MARKET THE OLD STOCK.

Any old hens which are now on hand, and which it is not intended to keep over winter, should be sent to market without further delay. If the hens are in the midst of the moult and look very shabby and ragged they had better be kept at home until they get their new coat of feathers, but if at all presentable in appearance ship them out. They will bring as much now as they will at any time during the fall, and the owner will have all he can do to provide

room for and properly look after the stock which is to occupy his coops during the winter. And his success so far as winter eggs are concerned depends altogether upon the manner in which this stock is handled and cared for during the next two months.

SULPHUR.

It appears to us that there is a great deal of nonsense taught in reference to the use of sulphur in the poultry yard. The use of sulphur is all right within reasonable limits, but the idea is all wrong that the fowls must be heavily dosed with sulphur two or three times a week in order to keep them in health. We use sulphur in various ways about the poultry houses, but we have never fallen into the habit of feeding it, and are not able to see that we have lost anything thereby.

THE AX AS A BONE CUTTER.

A good sharp ax makes a pretty good green bone cutter in the hands of one who is expert in its use. But people who have had but little association with the ax had better not make use of it for this purpose, or they may add some fresh cut bone to the mess which they would have preferred to leave out of it. We have seen people, however, who could shave the bone with an ax almost as evenly as it could be done with the best cutter.

ORDER NOW.

You know what breeds you are going to handle next season, and necessity will compel you to do more or less correspondence in regard to your stock between now and spring. For this purpose you will need stationery. Have it printed now. Don't wait until the offices are crowded with work, and things will have to be done in more or less of a rush. We wish to add that we can print your stationery for you in a way which will please you. Let us have your order now.

BETTER THAN KEROSENE.

Kerosene is not the best thing to apply to roosts for the purpose of destroying the lice. It will do the work if applied often enough, but the result which is aimed at can be accomplished easier by using a thin paste composed of four parts of lard, one of kerosene, and a gill of carbolic acid. The lard should first be melted, and the kerosene and acid then added.

It is good advice to make the chickens work for what they eat. But the owner must calculate to do as much work as the chickens do. It is work all around that counts in the hen business.

Having concluded to devote all my spare time to the perfecting of my Buff Wyandottes, I offer my

White Crested**BLACK POLISH
AT A BARGAIN.**

8 pullets, 5 hens and four cockerels, and the first

\$15.00

takes the lot. Address

P. D. WINE, Aurelia, Iowa.

RUTHERFORD BROS.

—BREEDERS OF—

* **White
Wonders.**

The hardiest of all fowls, and the best general purpose breed for the north.
AURELIA, IOWA.

**Pilot Rock
NURSERIES**

The best of everything in the line of nursery stock at

Hard Times Prices.

I am prepared to fill orders for fruit trees in any amount, blackberry raspberry and strawberry plants,

EVERGREENS AND

FOREST TREES.

And, in fact, everything which can be supplied by any first-class nursery.

Write for Price List,

Or call at nursery two miles east, and two and a half miles south of Cherokee, Iowa. Address

PILOT ROCK NURSERIES,
Cherokee, Iowa.

GET READY FOR WINTER.

It is not at all likely that we will have any severe winter weather for at least three months yet, but it is not too early to begin to make preparation for it. If this work is put off until winter has arrived much of it will be done in a hurried and imperfect manner. Every poultryman must do some building or repairing every year. And besides this there is considerable work involved in changing the houses so as to fit them for summer or winter quarters. This is not so much the case where one has coops of the first class, double walled, double windowed, paper lined, and fully equipped with every convenience which money can supply, but the vast majority of those who rear poultry do not possess houses of this character. They obtain the necessary warmth by banking either with earth or straw. The poultry house can be made perfectly comfortable in this way, and other things being equal the fowls will do as well in it as in the most expensive house which can be built. We have thought at times that even better results usually attended the keeping of fowls in such a house than in one provided with the paper and wooden walls of the regulation pattern. Once or twice in our life we have taken a building which was never intended for a poultry house and undertaken to make it answer that purpose for a single winter in the least expensive way, that is, by banking on the outside with earth and straw. The hens that were wintered in these places laid more eggs than those in our best built and most costly poultry houses. We ascertained that they were warmer than the houses which were both papered and plastered.

The houses of the majority of those who keep poultry in the north require some banking to make them warm and comfortable. When fall comes the windows usually need some looking after, and the roof is not altogether what it ought to be. There are various odds and ends to be attended to, and if the owner is a man of a careful and prudent nature he will get at this work early and have everything snug and cozy before cold weather is upon him. The writer has more than once suffered the consequences of putting off these jobs, and would like to save others the losses which have been the result of such neglect. Hereafter we want the occu-

pants of the different coops to be all safely housed by the last of September. The windows may not be in position by that time, but they all will have been examined and mended, and put where they can be dropped into the frames without any loss of time. We want the fowls to be fully prepared to face a blizzard some weeks before the blizzard is likely to come.

IT IS NOT MEAN.

All breeders of thorough-bred poultry have a surplus of eggs on their hands at times which must be marketed in the ordinary way. The breeders who keep several hundred fowls can fill an egg case and ship to the cities, but people who have only a small flock of fifty or less cannot do this. Their surplus product must be marketed at the village stores.

Now it sometimes happens that these small breeders have neighbors who greatly admire their thorough-bred fowls but who are not willing to pay the price of a setting of eggs in order to procure some of them for their own yards. And it has transpired on occasions that these neighbors watched when the breeder took his eggs to market, and then hastened to the store and bought some of them at ten cents a dozen and chuckled to themselves over the thought of their own smartness. These eggs were intrusted to some steady old biddy with experience in her business, and though she was as patient and as faithful to her job as any hen could be, she failed to bring off a single chick. The surprise of her owner gave way to anger when the fact dawned upon him that the eggs had been "doctored." How righteously indignant he was that any one should be guilty of such a mean trick as that.

There are methods of treating eggs which will prevent them from hatching, and which does not injure them in the least for table use. It is perfectly legitimate for the breeder of thorough-bred fowls to subject the eggs which he sells at the stores to these processes when he has any reason for believing that others are on the lookout for an opportunity to obtain them for hatching purposes for no more than the market price. It is not meanness to do this. The meanness is all on the other side. The party who tries to possess himself of the results of his neighbor's

labor, forethought and enterprise in such a way as this, is the only fellow who sees anything particularly mean about it. It is the right of the breeder to head off this fellow by any means which does no injury to the eggs for table uses. The case is one which does not admit of any argument.

Standard Buff LEGHORNS

I want every person interested in this popular and beautiful breed to send for our large, 4-page '95 circular free, stamp accepted. I have one of the finest flocks, and prize winners, scoring 94½ by Felch to 93½ by Drevenstedt. Also Black Javas and Columbian Wyandottes. Get my circular sure.

GEO. S. BARNES,
Battle Creek, Mich.



Do You Love Baby?

Our Combined Suspended

Springing Baby's Bed, Play Yard, Tender and Walker

Saves Mother care and trouble, a comfort and a delight to baby, safe, clean and healthful, endorsed by physicians, mothers and nurses. Postal for catalogue.

S. L. BRIGGS M'FG CO.,
TOLEDO, OHIO.

The Poultry Messenger,

AND

Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the first of every month by
The Messenger Company,
AURELIA, IOWA.

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Sixty Cents per inch, each insertion. Contracts under these rates will be limited to six months.

Breeders Cards.—Set in plain type, without display, one cent per word each insertion. No advertisement inserted for less than 25 cents.

From Poultry Herald
CURTIS ON A 16 TO 1 BASIS.

Editor Curtis says: "An advertisement placed in a publication that has 16000 circulation is worth sixteen times as much as one placed in a publication that has only 1000 circulation.

Brother Curtis calls that "Arithmetic." Yes, it's arithmetic—in Coin's Financial School, and it is anything else but the real fact. It wont work out that way. It never does, as shrewd advertisers well know. The Herald circulation at 6000 does not pay the advertiser six times as well as when we had only 1000, and this is taken account of in making up the advertising rate card, which is only about double what it was when we had one-sixth our present list. And the faster you multiply, the more permissive and unidentified the circulation becomes.

Then again: Some account should be taken of the number of advertisements a journal contains in proportion to its circulation. Twenty advertisements of Golden Wyandottes—for example—in a paper of 10,000 circulation will not pay the twenty advertisers—even on the Curtis 16-1 ratio—as well as five G. W. advertisers in a journal of 5000 circulation. (Any one can figure that out.) Now there are journals that, with a great flourish of "appearance," make a strong pull for ads., (it's ads. that count), and they get them too; for advertisers, like other folks, go in droves, and get lost, the crowd—mostly.

But this 15-1 theory is not new. Many a good man has gone wrong before by getting down to figures. They are infernal—prevaricators—figures are. Your 16 hens, home flock, fed on table scraps, give you a dozen eggs a day. A Curtis 16-1 man comes along and says: "just you get 1,600 hens, and

presto! you have 100 dozen eggs a day." But it's a lie! It's arithmetic all right, but it's wrong just the same as it is on the circulation racket. The 1,000 circulation has a "home fed flock," and if the paper is readable, and the community up-to-date, progressive and prosperous, it makes a rattling good advertising medium if rates are anywhere within bounds. The 16,000 paper, on the other hand, has a large field, with advertisers and patrons widely separated, reducing the legitimate returns to any given advertiser to practically the same field reached more directly by his home paper at from one-half to one-fifth the cost. Besides, the proportionate free sample copy list of a 16,000 journal is much greater than in the "home paper" of more limited circulation; and advertisers well know that a "sample copy edition" does not pay on any known basis.

The HERALD gives more than usual attention to this 16-1 illusion, because, if advertisers will study it carefully, they will not waste their money in chasing after it. Thousands of dollars are thrown away foolishly, because uselessly, which might just as well have been saved. It would pay advertisers to give this matter some thought.

We make a specialty of getting out a four page catalogue for poultrymen on light cardboard. When folded they are just the proper size for mailing in a number six envelope. We furnish 500 of these catalogues for \$3.90 delivered. Send for a sample. Any one who wishes to find buyers for his stock, or eggs from his yards, will find it money well invested to have a neat circular or catalogue to send out with his correspondence.

If you have anything worth selling advertise it, but do not advertise what you have not got. Straight, honest methods will in the end be rewarded in the poultry business, as in everything else.

In the September number of The Delineator, which is called the Autumn Announcement Number, the display of Fashions for the coming season is exceptionally large, and the Styles are handsome enough to suit the most exacting taste. The issue is also notable for the variety and quality of its reading matter. Mrs. Pryor's articles on the Social Code continue, and this month The Debutante is considered in a most interesting way; Amy Rayson, a famous graduate of Girton College, writes of a girl's life there and at Newman, the two best known English Colleges for Women: Edith M. Thomas, in connection with Dr. S. R. Elliot, talks of Woman as a Writer, and Mary Schenck Woolman practically treats of Plain Needlework as an Employment. Mrs. Sara Miller Kirby continues her valuable series on Kindergarten Work, and Harriet Keith Fobes gives further instructions in Burnt Decoration. The Household Departments are well represented in The Choosing and Preparation of Meats, Seasonable Cookery, The Housekeeper, and Preservation and Renovation. Instruction and Entertainment are provided in Around the Tea-Table and Some Novel Amusements, and The Newest Books are reviewed. In Knitting, Netting, Tatting and Crocheting new designs are illustrated, with descriptions for making.

The Delineator is issued by the Famous Fashion Publishers, The Butterick Publishing Co, (Limited), to 17 West Thirteenth Street, New York, at the remarkably low rate of \$1.00 for a Year's Subscription, or 15 cents per copy.

Let us send you some of our samples of letterheads, envelopes, cards, shipping tags, &c. Take notice of the low price at which we furnish this class of stationery.

Send us the names of a few of your poultry keeping acquaintances. You can afford to do it, and you ought to do it.

Bone and Shell

FOR POULTRY.

Circular explaining benefit and how to feed it, and prices on lots of 100 lbs or more, delivered, freight paid at your railroad station, address

Fitch Fertilizer Works, Bay City, Mich.

Raw Bone has been proven by analysis to contain every part of an egg—White, Yolk and Shell. The lime of oyster shell furnishes shell material. The granulated size is for adult fowls; the meal is for chicks, and mixed with soft food. For

Notes About Chickens and Fruits. And Answers to Queries.

Address all communications for this department to O. P. Greer, Bourbon, Indiana, and mention the MESSENGER.

NOTES, &c., FOR SEPTEMBER.

Red Caps—I have read in some of the journals that Red Caps are great layers, even better than the Leghorns. Give me a description of them and state if you believe them a profitable fowl to raise.

A. R.

It is undoubtedly a mistake about the Red Caps being such great layers. In the National Stockman and Farmer egg contest the Red Caps fall far below the Leghorns as layers; they did not come up with the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes as layers. The weight of the cock is seven and a half pounds, hen six and a half pounds. They have a large rose comb. The color of the male is blue black and red, female blue black and brown. You had better buy a copy of the American Standard of Perfection. It will give you a true description of the Red Caps.

Will you tell me what fowls belong to the American class, Asiatic class, &c., and oblige,

E. W.

The breeds that belong to the American class are Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Javas, Dominique and Jersey Blue. Asiatic class, Brahmas, Cochins and Langshans. Mediterranean class, Leghorns, Minorcas, Andalusian and Spanish. Hamburg class include the Hamburg, Red Caps and Campines. French class, the Houdan, Crevecoens and La Fleche. The Standard of Perfection will tell you all about the varieties and many other things you ought to know if you intend to keep chickens.

Dorkings.—I would like to know something about the Dorkings. Would you consider them a good breed to keep?

There are three varieties of the Dorking family, colored, silver gray and white. They are thoroughly an English breed and are not extensively bred in this country. It is said that they are an extra table fowl, takes on weight early, and makes a good table fowl. They are more subject to roup, gapes, and other diseases than most fowls, but if kept on dry soil will do well. They are not considered good layers. I would not consider them a desirable breed for a farmers fowl, not near so good as the Plymouth Rock.

The poultry and egg industry of the United States is said to be \$560,000,000.

If anybody says the poultry and egg business is a small affair and only fit for women and invalids to look after, tell them it is bigger than the corn crop of the United States, bigger than the wheat crop, bigger than any crop which is raised on the farm. Small business for invalids, did you say?

If you intend to keep fowls for the purpose of selling eggs into market the small breeds are much more profitable. Where small eggs sell for the same price per dozen that the largest ones do it does not pay to keep large hens that consume a greater quantity of food than smaller ones do. The custom of selling eggs by the dozen is unjust. There is but little encouragement given the farmer and fancier to produce nice, large eggs for market,

Dampness is as bad for young chicks as cold weather. See that their drinking water is placed in such a way that they will not get wet or even damp while drinking.

Poultry need as much protection from the hot rays of the sun in summer, as they do from the severe cold in winter.

Remember the chicken houses must be kept clean. Disease is confined to no particular breed, season or climate. Prevention is better than cure.

It is not necessary that a hen should be in poor flesh to be a good layer. She should be in good condition, good flesh, but not too fat.

It is better to spend your time and money trying to improve one or two breeds than to want to breed all the varieties in the standard.

It is said that the French have over eighty ways of cooking fowls, and over a hundred ways of cooking eggs.

If you grow big, firm berries it will not be necessary for you to hunt for a market, the market will hunt for you.

It requires about ten years after planting for the chestnut tree to fruit. A long time to wait for a few chestnuts.

In planting trees you should take into consideration their usefulness as well as beauty. Plant peach, plum and cherry in the poultry runs, they not only make shade for the fowls during the sultry hot months, but often produce fine fruits.

Examine and make a note of the reports of experiment stations on small fruits etc., especially new varieties. Decide what you want to plant next season and don't be humbugged by some flashy catalogue that would like to sell

you anything in their list from the old worthless varieties to the new untried ones. I read in one of my papers about a great raspberry up in Michigan that was nearly twice as large as the Gregg, more productive, earlier and never winter killed. The Indiana experimental station at LaFayette, says of the new berry, after two years trial, that it may prove to be as good as the Gregg.

Trim your trees so they will have low spreading tops. Shorten the branches each season, they will stand the storms better and will be more easily sprayed.

Clover cut green is said to be an excellent mulch for raspberries, gooseberries or any small fruit where a mulch is necessary.

Never expose the roots of plants to the sun or wind. Keep in a cool place until planted in the ground.

Strawberry plants are either pistillate (female) or bisexual (male.). Every third row should be bisexual to insure good fertilization. The crown of the strawberry should be set just even with the surface of the ground, no higher or no lower. If set too low the dirt will cover the crown and injure the growth. If set too high the sun will dry the roots and often kill the plants.

Immediately after fruiting the strawberry beds should be closely cut with a scythe or mower and after drying a few days burned over.

Subscribe for the POULTRY MESSENGER if you have not already done so. It will cost you but 25 cents to take it a whole year, it will be worth many times that to you.

You should never use as a breeder a cockeral that shows the least sign of vulture hock. It will keep cropping out for generations.

The lice are doing great damage now and are liable to cause severe loss to all who do not use the very best precautions.

COVER YOUR ROOF WITH
P AND B
RUBEROID ROOFING
Will not taint water. Anyone can lay it.
Outwears iron or shingles.
The Cheapest and Best
cover ever put on a roof. The P. & B. building papers have no equal. Send for samples and prices. Also sample AMERICAN POULTRYMAN. POULTRYMAN PUB. CO., GEN. AGENTS, DODGEVILLE, WIS.
Also Webster & Hannum bone cutters. Simplex Hatchers, Supplies, Etc.

SHE MADE MISTAKES.

Editor MESSENGER:

The most of the people who write for the poultry papers tell of their successes. We believe that quite as much could be learned by the readers if more of these writers would tell about the mistakes they have made. One of the most successful breeders that I am acquainted with one time made this remark to me: "As far as poultry keeping is concerned, I claim to have a pretty good education, but I have paid for it. I don't owe anything on my schooling." This man had made many costly mistakes and he was not ashamed to admit it. All of us have done the same thing, and if we would talk more freely about these mistakes those who read after us would learn a good many things which it would do them good to know. As it is too many jump into the poultry business with the notion that they have nothing to fear so far as success is concerned—that it is pretty much all smooth sailing. To be sure some one tells them occasionally that this is a mistake, that there are plenty of breakers ahead which are liable to knock the bottom out of their craft; but as the writers of these articles don't go into particulars, they do not have much weight. The writer of this is willing to admit that she has made very many mistakes in her poultry keeping affairs. Some of them were so ridiculous that money could not hire us to tell about them, but we can think of others which we are willing to talk about in print, and if this escapes the waste basket we will tell about them in some future number.

NELLIE BANNISTER

Topeka, Kansas.

Keep some bran on hand and mix some of it with all the soft feed given to the hens. But don't feed the bran alone. Even when scalded and given in the shape of a mash it is likely to cause intestinal troubles unless fed in connection with other ground stuff. Bran is an excellent food for poultry, but in order to obtain the best results from it one must know how to feed it.

A flock of twenty hens can be kept for five cents a day.

There is money in the chicken business, but like any other business, there is no money in it until one learns how to conduct it.

A LITTLE SWINDLE.

Breeders of thorough-bred chickens who aim to furnish stock to the trade must prepare themselves to hear more or less complaint from those to whom they sell. No matter how hard they may try they cannot please all of those with whom they may have dealings. There are people who don't know when they have got their money's worth and others who are never satisfied unless they get more than their money's worth, and in his business experience the breeder is sure to come across both of these kinds of people.

Some poultryman wants a cockerel to put in a pen which he is just now getting together for the winter. He wisely concludes to purchase the bird in the fall in order to save the extra expense which would be added to the purchase if he waited till spring. He tells the seller that he wants a good average bird, but not one of the highest priced which he may have to sell. In due time he receives his cockerel. Perhaps there are a few feathers on its wing, tail or legs which are not exactly as they should be. Perhaps its comb may be slightly defective. The bird is not exhibition stock, it was not sold for that. But it is precisely what the buyer spoke for and what it is represented to be by the seller. But he is disappointed all the same and makes a big fuss about what he regards as the general inferiority of the bird. This man may be honest. He may think that he is justly entitled to something better than has been sent him. He may not really know what a fairly good bird is, and because the specimen sent him is defective in a few minor points, rates it far below its actual merits.

But this man has a neighbor who has had a longer experience with poultry than he has and knows a good bird when he sees it. He too sends to a breeder for a good average cockerel, and when it comes raises a complaint loud enough to disturb the neighborhood. This man knows he has obtained just what he ordered, but he thinks he can frighten the breeder into giving him something better than he paid for. There is method in his madness. He proposes to make kicks answer the end of dollars. This is about the time of year that breeders need to be on the lookout for this fellow. Old hands at the business know his ear-marks and

recognize him at the first glance, but beginners are very liable to be victimized by him. This fellow is the first cousin to a dead beat. Don't stand in fear of him, and don't be bull-dozed by him. Give him to understand that you will not allow the question of the bird's merits to be settled by the test of his judgment. Challenge him to submit the question to a disinterested and more competent authority, with a forfeit in case he is adjudged to be in the wrong. Make him come to the scratch.

Do not quit the use of lime about the poultry houses as soon as the hot weather is over. Make it a point to scatter some of it in the corners and under the roosting poles at least once a month all through the winter. Put some of it also in the bottom of the nest boxes as often as the straw or chaff is changed. Reliable authorities contend that there will be no roup in poultry houses in which lime is used freely during the winter.

THESE TWO

—o—

The Cherokee
Weekly Times
Laws AND Legal
Forms of Iowa.

We have issued a neat little volume containing an able and thoroughly reliable compilation of the Laws of Iowa. It is written in a style that anyone can readily understand, being free from the perplexing verbiage of the code.

We believe this volume will prove of real and practical benefit to all classes of our people.

We offer the book and the Times for one year, for

ONLY \$1.50

Or the book alone for 50 cents.

Address orders to—

THE TIMES,
CHEROKEE, IOWA.

Fruit Culture.

PLUMS.

By J. WRAGG, Waukeee, Iowa.

No tree fruit is so widely grown in Iowa as the plum. This is easily accounted for as it is the home of the best varieties yet introduced of the American type, which includes most of our best and hardiest varieties. Many years ago we became interested in plum culture, and with a view of demonstrating which of the many varieties was worthy of extended cultivation, we began to plant every variety we could procure that gave promise of being adapted to our soil and climate, and now we will give the readers of the MESSENGER some of the results of our experience with the sincere hope that it will be of use to many of them in the future. Perhaps the two best known of our native plums are the Desoto and Miner. No one has been found that seemed to adapt itself to all soils and locations as the Desoto. It was originally found growing near the Mississippi river in Wisconsin. It was taken across the river into northeastern Iowa, and from there has been disseminated to all parts of the northwest. The Miner was first found near Galena, Illinois. It is a fine large late plum of the Chicasa type. It is not a general favorite from the fact that in many instances it has been planted alone, and has proved a shy bearer. Recent experiments seem to demonstrate that this is owing to its weak blossoms that are deficient in pollen and that when planted in close proximity to varieties having abundance of pollen it is a fairly good bearer. And here let me say that this is true of all fruits. Do not plant any variety in large blocks by themselves, but plant in alternate rows so that the wind and insects may thoroughly pollenize the blossoms from other varieties. As the result of our own experience our advice must be to prospective planters to plant largely of our native sorts, but to experiment with the larger and better sorts, and if soil and location are congenial you will be amply repaid.

Among the later introductions of new sorts are those brought by Prof. Budd from northeastern Europe. As this is the first season they have fruited with

us it would not be wise to either recommend or condemn them, but will simply say that at the present writing the Early Red and Communia are loaded with fine fruit. Of the other varieties that are showing a light crop are the Yellow Veronish, a magnificent yellow plum, and the Mirabelle, a small yellow plum, but in quality the best.

Of the native varieties the following are the best: Desoto, Wolf, Wyant, Hawkeye, Comfort and Stoddart. This last we esteem the finest native yet introduced here. It was first brought to our notice five years ago, and our young trees are now loaded with their second crop and are much the finest and largest of any native varieties on our grounds. There has recently been introduced by Mr. H. A. Terry a number of very fine sorts of which the best known are Hammer, Milton and Chas. Downing. As our young trees of these varieties have not yet fruited we can only take the judgement of those of our horticultural friends whose have that they are of the finest size and quality.

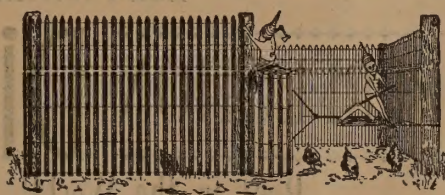
There has recently been introduced from far off Japan a new race of plums in the eastern and southern states. They are considered a great acquisition, being of large size, beautiful appearance and of fine quality. The best known of these are Abundance, Burbank and Willard. They have proved hardy in tree with us so far as tried, but we would not advise extensive planting of

these in the northern half of Iowa till better known. Two other plums we will mention both natives and perfectly hardy, Rollingstone and Bockford. While these are not large in size they are best in quality and should be in every collection.

In this random talk we have only meant to suggest to our readers who may be interested in plum culture what they may safely plant with the assurance that they may enjoy in the near future abundant fruit of their labor.

Look over your place now and make a note of what is lacking in the way of fruits. You are doubtless being paid a dozen times over for all the trouble and expense that you have been to to obtain what you have in that line, but the chances are that you haven't more than half enough. Decide what is wanting now, in the midst of the fruit season, and then make out your order and place it with some reliable nurseryman for the next spring delivery. If you wait until next spring to do this it is more than probable that the matter will be neglected. People are prone to postpone a thing of this kind, and they always regret having done so.

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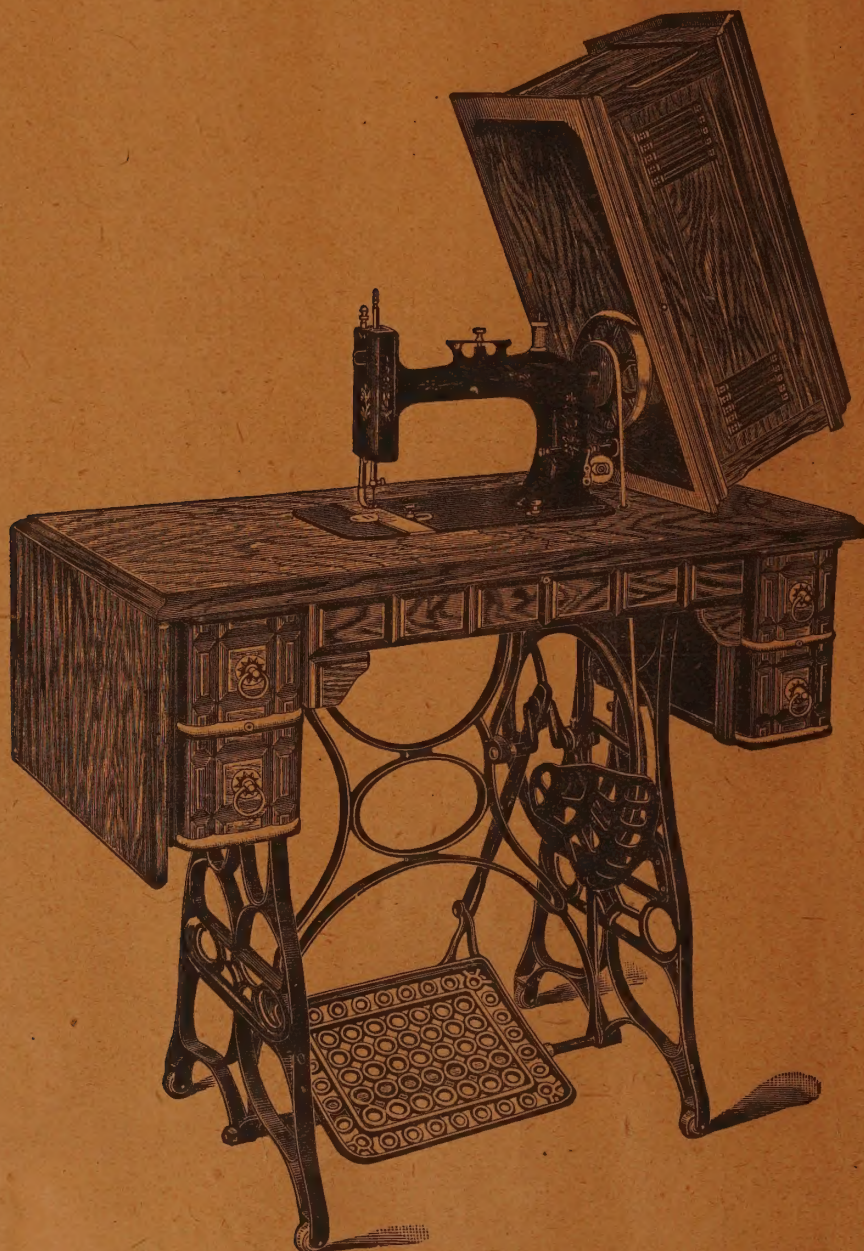
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